

Application No.: 09/746,917

REMARKS

Claims 10, 12, 14, 25, 27 and 29 are pending in this application. Claims 10, 12, 14, 25, 27 and 29 have been amended.

Claims 25, 27 and 29 were rejected under 35 USC §101 for non-statutory subject matter, that the method could be carried out with pencil and paper. Claims 25, 27 and 29 have been amended to recite that the method is carried out in "a system for providing item recommendations, comprising: a memory; a device for recording an item on a hardcopy medium; and a processor, for storing ratings of items and for generating recommendations for new items based on recommendation criteria, a method for operating the system for generating recommendations."

Claims 10, 12, 14, 25, 27 and 29 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chislenko et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,092,049) in view of Chan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,379,070).

Each of Claims 10, 12, 14, 25, 27 and 29 has been amended to include the limitation wherein recording the item on a hardcopy medium comprises an implicit rating for the item by the user. The system and method as claimed in Claims 10, 12, 14, 25, 27 and 29 gathers recommendations without the active participation of users, by deducing implicit recommendations from a work group's use of a shared recording device, such as a printer, a copier, a scanner or a set of printers, copiers or scanners, or some combination thereof. The act of recording an item on a hardcopy medium (whether the recording act is, for example, printing, scanning or copying) as an implicit recommendation by that user.

Claim 10, as presently amended, claims a system for providing item recommendations, comprising: a memory; a device, responsive to a user request, for recording an item on a hardcopy medium, wherein recording the item on a hardcopy medium comprises an implicit rating for the item by the user; a processor, for storing ratings of items and for generating recommendations for new items based on recommendation criteria; wherein, responsive to the recording of the item on a hardcopy medium, the processor stores the implicit rating for the recorded item in the memory, determines whether, based on the implicit rating for the recorded

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item and the recommendation criteria, to generate an item recommendation, and if the criteria for generating a recommendation is met, generates a recommendation of a new item; wherein the memory stores user profiles for users of the system, wherein each user profile includes a set of user preferences pertaining to items and wherein the processor, responsive to the recorded item, updates the user's profile with the implicit rating of the recorded item; wherein the processor further stores a representation of the recorded item in memory and determines an item similarity for the recorded item with other items stored in the memory by comparing the stored representation of the recorded item with the stored representations of other recorded items stored in the memory; wherein the processor characterizes content of the recorded item using linguistic tools and wherein the processor determines an item to item similarity between two recorded items by calculating a sum of weights of keywords in common divided by a sum of weights of all keywords associated with the two recorded items.

Nothing in Chislenko et al. teaches or suggests a system or method for generating recommendations, which uses as implicit ratings, the fact of items being recorded on hardcopy medium by users. Chislenko et al. suggests other actions be used as implicit ratings: the time spent viewing a particular Web page, the number of people a user mails a particular item to (col. 4, lines 44-59). From these actions, Chislenko et al. infers a confidence factor in a particular item. Nothing in Chan et al. overcomes the lack to teachings of Chislenko et al. Chan et al. teaches a secure printing system. There is no teaching to combine Chislenko et al. and Chan et al. There is nothing in Chan et al. to suggest that the act of printing has any relevance to a recommender system. The fact that a user of the Chislenko et al. might print a particular Web page is not taken by either Chislenko et al. or by Chan et al. as an indication of an implicit rating of that item. It is only with Applicants' claims, that the relevance of recording the item on a hardcopy medium comprises an implicit rating for the item by the user is taught.

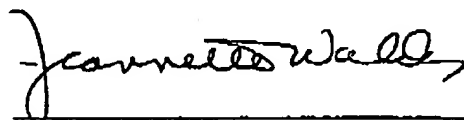
No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment; however, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

Reconsideration of this application and allowance thereof are earnestly solicited. In the

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event the Examiner considers a personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned Attorney for Applicants, Jeannette Walder.

Respectfully submitted,



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Xerox Corporation
El Segundo, California
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